

New Jersey Family Assistance Center



Update:

March 28, 2003

NJFAM Update

Joanne Gerow, Executive Director of New Jersey Family Advocate Management, Inc. (NJFAM) has announced that as of March 26, 2003, NJFAM's ongoing Family Assistance Program ("FAP") will be administered directly by NJFAM. Previously, the FAP had been administered by the United Ways of New Jersey through a contractual agreement with United Way of Greater Mercer County.

The FAP is now serving 580 families. If you know of any New Jersey family members who have not registered, please tell them it is not too late. They can call (877) 688-5268 to obtain an Advocate.

In addition, NJFAM is now coordinating another program entitled "World Trade Center- New Jersey Recovers" ("NJR") through a grant from the Department of Health and Senior Services and its Division of Addiction Services.

NJR is dedicated to providing substance abuse services for adults, adolescents, and families directly affected by the events of September 11th in New Jersey.

An all too common coping mechanism for dealing with grief and loss is to seek escape through the use of alcohol and other drugs. Research shows that many suffering with post-traumatic stress disorder tend to self-medicate the condition by using substances.

Megan Sullivan (732) 869-8346, the NJR Care Coordinator, will work with interested clients to determine what level of care they may need to address their substance abuse questions or concerns. Ms. Sullivan will meet with clients at a location near their homes to conduct a thorough assessment of their substance abuse and post traumatic stress treatment needs. In order to ensure clients' privacy, NJR sites have been chosen for their non-stigmatizing environments. She will also work with

New Jersey Gross Income Tax Forgiveness

The State Division of Taxation now has information and forms relating to Income Tax forgiveness for victims of the September 11, 2001 Attacks who lost their lives. The law became effective January 27, 2003 (P.L. 2003, c.9) when it was signed by Governor McGreevey. Generally, for tax years 2000 and 2001, New Jersey gross income tax will be forgiven on the income of decedents who died as a result of the September 11, 2001 Attacks. Any taxes already paid will be refunded; taxes owed will be waived. On a joint return, only the decedent's portion of the joint gross income tax liability is eligible.

Requests for tax forgiveness must be submitted on Form NJ-0911 which can be accessed from the Family Assistance Web site at www.nj.gov/wtc.

For assistance please go to nj.us or call (609) 292-2163 Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. You may also visit the Division of Taxation at 50 Barrack St., Trenton, NJ 08695 during the same hours.

clients to determine the appropriate level of care and make the referral according to the clients' wishes. Ms. Sullivan will then manage the care these clients receive from the treatment agencies and authorize payment for treatment.

Additionally, NJFAM has assisted approximately 300 displaced workers to date through the September 11th Fund's Ongoing Recovery Program ("ORP"). The main focus of the program is to help New Jersey residents return to work. For those who are eligible, (unemployed or underemployed as a result of the Attacks) Information Sessions are being held regularly. At the Information Sessions, available resources are discussed and participants are certified for eligibility. Call (800) 652-7477 to learn more.

The second part of the ORP, known as the Employment Assistance Program ("EAP"), is designed to help individuals who lost their jobs or experienced a substantial reduction in earnings as a result of the September 11th Attacks. The EAP is being offered through several county One-Stop Career Centers. This program is open to undocumented workers and all information provided is completely confidential.

WTC Victims Quilt: American Folk Art Museum

A quilt made in memory of the September 11 tragedy is on view at the American Folk Art Museum's uptown branch, the Eva and Morris Feld Gallery at Lincoln Square, through September 2003. The National Tribute Quilt was assembled by The Steel Quilters of Pittsburgh, PA from 3,446 blocks contributed by more than 1,000 quilters from 50 states and 5 countries. It bears the names of all those who perished at the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and in Pennsylvania. A List Book allows visitors to locate every name in the quilt. Viewed from a distance, the 3,466 individual blocks merge to form the New York City skyline with the World Trade Center Towers toward the center, flanked by panels depicting the Pentagon and Flight 93. This quilt, which is in the museum's permanent collection, is composed of 6 panels and the overall size is 8' x 30'.

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Info Hotline: 877-688-5268 • www.nj.gov/wtc

Providing Help for September 11 Victims and Their Families

Quilt *continued from page 1*

The American Folk Art Museum/Eva and Morris Feld Gallery is located at Lincoln Square, Columbus Avenue between 65th and 66th Street. New York, NY 10023.

Hours:

Tuesday-Sunday 11 am to 7:30 pm,
Monday 11 am to 6 pm.

Admission: Free

Public Transportation:

Bus M104, M7, M5, M66, M10;
Subway 1/9 to 66th Street

Web site: www.folkartmuseum.org

The main collection of the American Folk Art Museum is at 45 West 53 Street, New York, NY 10019. For information call (212) 265-1040 ext. 113.

World Trade Center Scholarship Board

The World Trade Center Scholarship Act Board of Trustees ("the Board") has adopted regulations to govern the process of applying for aid under the World Trade Center Scholarship Fund. Applications for the 2003 school year are being prepared and will be available shortly.

If you have not responded to the letter and questionnaire sent to families by the Board to obtain vital information from you, another one has been enclosed with this Newsletter. The information will enable the

Board to plan for the educational needs of those eligible under the World Trade Center Scholarship Act: dependent children and spouses of victims. The Board is urging families to fill out the questionnaire and forward it to:

NJ WTC Scholarship Fund
NJ HESAA
PO Box 540
Trenton, NJ 08625-0540

FEMA Mortgage and Rental Assistance: Late Registration

April 1, 2003 will be the last day to mail written requests for late registration for FEMA's Mortgage & Rental Assistance (MRA). While the deadline for the MRA program has passed, the agency will still consider late registration.

To be considered for late registration, you must have lived or worked in Manhattan on September 11, 2001, experienced at least a 25% loss of your total household income, and must have been delinquent in paying your rent or mortgage prior to January 31, 2003. You will be required to demonstrate why circumstances beyond your control prevented you from applying prior to January 31, 2003.

Your written request for an MRA exception must be postmarked by April 1, 2003 and mailed to:

**Regional Director
FEMA Region II**
P.O. Box 2314
New York, NY 10116

April 1, 2003 is also the Deadline to

return your MRA Application if you have already registered with FEMA, but not sent in your application yet. You must complete your MRA application packet and return it to FEMA—postmarked no later than April 1, 2003—or your file will be closed. Fax your completed application to: FEMA - MRA Program at (800) 827-8112 or mail to:

**FEMA - MRA Program
National Processing Service Center**
P.O. Box 10055
Hyattsville, MD 20782-7055

Family members have let us know that those who need mortgage assistance have been offered two options: one involves allowing for a "late" payment of a mortgage or rent (even one day). The other allows for a retroactive lump sum. Each of these options requires specific kinds of "proof" of loss of household income and (in the case of the second option) will require that you show that money to pay for mortgage or rent has to be regularly taken out of your savings account. Your advocate should be able to help you fill out the application and should have appropriate information about pursuing assistance from FEMA.

The Gift of New York:

The ordering deadline for the memorial sculpture made by artist Bryan Hunt out of recovered steel from the Twin Towers has been extended to Friday, March 28.

If you have not already requested a sculpture and you would like one AND you received a letter addressed to you from Mayor Michael Bloomberg dated December 20, 2002 about the sculpture, please call The Gift of New York ("TGNY") volunteer hotline at (800)528-1499 between 12 noon and 6:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, until Friday, March 28.

To obtain a sculpture, you must be the legal next of kin as listed with the City of New York, and you must have received the December 20, 2002 letter from the mayor to place an order. The order must be in your name, not that of another family member, and the mailing address you provide must match the address listed with the City.

Only one sculpture request per family will be accepted. Orders from family members who are not the sole legal next of kin as listed with the City of New York will not be fulfilled. Please check with your family before calling TGNY if you are unsure if your family has already ordered their sculpture.

If you have already ordered a sculpture and have not yet received it, the City and Port Authority expect to have all orders shipped out by the end of April.

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Providing Help for September 11 Victims and Their Families

Lions Club Camps for Young People and Families:

Lions Clubs International is sponsoring camps for those directly affected by the September 11th Attacks. The upcoming sessions will allow children and family members of the victims of 9/11 to participate in free weekend retreats. Lions Clubs International and Friendship Ambassadors Foundation have prepared programs which will focus on international dance, music and theater programs showcasing cultural diversity, understanding and acceptance.

Entitled "Finding New Hope," the program uses the arts and person-to-person cultural exchange to help victims of human trauma. Its two components are: The Little Heroes Summer Camp and the year round Weekend Retreats for Families. The program seeks to help the healing process by allowing the victims to enjoy the arts and cultural exchange, release themselves, and eventually express their feelings creatively, with the help of professional art therapists and counselors.

The camps will take place at the dates and locations below (and several more are planned over the following year). They include one holiday program the week between Christmas and New Years and a young people-only camp for a week in late Summer. Each camp will start on Monday and finish on Friday:

❖ **May 9-11**
Camp Mara (*Families Only*)
Putnam Valley, New York

Participants will have exposure to a series of artistic programs of cultural diversity, and will be able to meet and share their feelings with people from other parts of the world. There will also be events such as nature walks and multi-cultural feasts.

Programming is provided by FAF, Bond Street Theatre Coalition, Vanaver Caravan, Gil Tarbox, Westchester Jewish Community Services, and James Young.

- ❖ **July 28 - August 22**
Camp Mara (*Young People Only*)
Putnam Valley, New York
- ❖ **September 19-21**
Camp Merrick (*Families Only*)
Nanjemoy, Maryland
- ❖ **December 26 - 30**
Easter Seals Camp Hemlock,
Hebron, Connecticut

For inquiries and applications, please contact Lions Outreach Coordinator Marlena Greene at:

Summer Camps for affected Children and Youth
July August 2003
Friendship Ambassadors Foundation
110 Mamaroneck Avenue
White Plains, New York 10601
Tel: (914) 328-8589
Fax: (914) 328-8578
Email: marlena@faf.org
Web site: www.faf.org

September 11TH Investigative Commission

The special commission established by Congress to investigate the September 11th, 2001 Attacks will begin its public work at hearings to be held in lower Manhattan March 31 and April 1. These first hearings, which will be informational rather than investigative in nature, will include witnesses who are city and state officials as well as several victims' relatives to be selected from various support groups. The goal, according to reports quoting Philip Zelikow, staff director for the commission, is to obtain testimony from the public concerning what the commission is expected to do. The hearings will take place at the Customs House in New York City at 1 Bowling Green and are open to the public.

The proceedings will be broadcast live on the Commission's Web site at www.9-11commission.gov. The hearing is also

open to the public, and tickets for each day will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis at the entrance to the auditorium, beginning at 8:00 AM. Once the auditorium is full, the doors will be closed. For security purposes, all bags and persons will be subject to search. For more information on check-in guidelines for the public, please visit the Commission's Web site.

Some areas of investigation already suggested include probing procedures involving visas; Saudi Arabia's role in the Attacks, and the Port Authority's response.

The commission was established by Congress in November 2002 for an 18 month term. It held its first meeting in Washington D.C. in January after issues about the chairmanship were settled. It is now chaired by former New Jersey Governor Thomas Kean, who is currently

president of Drew University. Governor Kean has reportedly identified issues not covered by the congressional intelligence probe of September 11 which concluded that the FBI and CIA failed to share information and missed important clues, but that none of the tips had been specific enough to enable them to prevent the Attacks.

For information contact:

National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States

c/o GSA Agency Liaison Division
701 D Street, SW
Room 7120
Washington, DC 20407

Tel: 202-331-4060
Fax: 202-296-5545
Email: info@9-11commission.gov
Web: www.9-11commission.gov

Info Hotline: 877-688-5268 • www.nj.gov/wtc

Providing Help for September 11 Victims and Their Families

Camp to Host Children Affected by 9/11

The Scott Hazelcorn Memorial Children's Foundation is again sponsoring "Camp Haze," a free, week-long camp for children directly affected by the September 11th 2001 Attacks on the World Trade Center. The camp will be hosted by Camp Kennybrook in Monticello, New York from August 18 to 24. The Foundation was created in honor of Scott Hazelcorn, a Cantor Fitzgerald employee, and former camper, who died in the Attacks.

Camp Haze, established by Scott's family and friends for children who lost a parent or other loved one on September 11th, will provide typical camping activities in a therapeutic environment and will be run by certified teachers, therapists and experienced camp staff.

Parents or guardians of children interested in applying should call 866 FOR-HAZE or go to the camp's Web site: www.camphaze.org. You may also view the camp itself at www.kennybrook.com

Project Remember Me:

"Project Remember Me: A Celebration of Life" was announced on February 25, 2003 by Adam's Angels, a program that began in memory of Adam D. Rand, a New York City firefighter who lost his life on September 11th 2001.

During the next six months, Adam's Angels plans to create a memorial dedicated to all of the people who lost their lives on September 11th, 2001. The memorial will consist of the faces and stories of the victims, their loved ones left behind, rescue workers, volunteers and all Americans who were impacted in any way by the Attacks.

The Project was inspired by the original "Remember Me" exhibit put together by the Ground Zero Fellowship. It will culminate in a New York City reception in September 2003.

Adam's Angels is not a program that accepts donations. Its goal is to match children of fallen firefighters with an "angel" here on earth. Initially, members of Adam's Angels bought holiday gifts for the children of fire fighters they knew personally. The program grew and has matched people all over the world with children who lost their FDNY fathers on 9/11. It also offers a "9/11 Family Support Group" for people who lost loved ones on September 11th. Through a message board and weekly e-mails, 9/11 family members are able to communicate with each other and learn about special gifts available through Adam's Angels.

Adams Angels is also currently sponsoring "Operation Sending Smiles Across The Miles". This project sends care packages, letters and cards to various American military troops throughout the year. If you are interested in Adam's Angels' projects, please e-mail: angels@adamsangels.org.

Of Interest:

❖ LMDC Design Selected for WTC Site:

For information visit:

www.renewnyc.com

❖ April 1, 2003:

FEMA Deadline: See discussion under FEMA story in this issue.

❖ April 10, 2003:

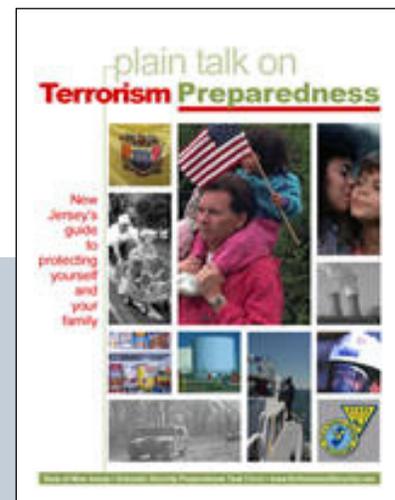
LMDC Board Meeting; 8:00 a.m., One Liberty Plaza, 39th Floor; Open to media and the public; Call (212) 962-2300 for information.

❖ April 30, 2003:

The Gift of New York closes its doors.

Family Assistance Update

For printable copies of this issue or previous issues visit www.nj.gov/wtc or call 609-292-4791. Published by the New Jersey Department of Law & Public Safety.



For up-to-the-minute information, resources and to learn what New Jersey is doing to protect It's citizens, visit:

www.NJHomelandSecurity.com

Featuring:

Plain Talk on Terrorism Preparedness

New Jersey's guide to protecting yourself and you family

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